

REMARKS

Claims 1-80 are currently pending in this application. Claims 12-16, 18-21, 24-27, 29-32, 35-50, 54-58, 60-63, 66-69, 71-74 and 77-80 were withdrawn due to a previous restriction requirement. Claims 1 and 5-9 are currently amended. Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 17, 22-23, 28, 33-34, 51-53, 59, 64-65, 70, 75-76 are original. Claim 4 is canceled. No new matter is added. Claims 1-3, 10-11, 17, 22-23, 28, 33-34, 51-53, 59, 64-65, 70, 75-76 stand rejected under U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 5,865,051 to Otzen et al. (referred to herein after as "Otzen").

Applicants hereby traverse the rejection and respectfully request reconsideration in view of the remarks set forth below.

As stated in the MPEP §2131, "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Applicants amend independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 4. Currently amended claim 1 recites an apparatus for manufacturing a coil spring from a wire. The apparatus includes a coil-spring winder and a wire-holder. The coil-spring winder forms a wire having a plurality of strands into a coil having a plurality of turns. The wire-holder is configured to supply the wire to the coil-spring winder along a feed direction. The wire-holder is supported for rotation about a holding axis. The rotation of the wire holder reduces a torque acting about a cross-section of the wire.

The Office Action has not provided any basis for rejecting claims 4-9. Even so, Applicants have carefully reviewed Otzen, cited against original claim 1, and have found no teaching or suggestion of, at least, the subject matter of claim 4, which is now included in amended claim 1. Otzen, at least, fails to describe an apparatus for manufacturing a coil spring from a wire having a

plurality of strands. Otzen is directed to a procedure and apparatus for the manufacture of coil springs in automatic spring winding machines with no teaching or suggestion for a mutli-strand wire. Instead, the wire in Otzen is a single strand wire formed in the "interior of a furnace" through a "stretching and tapering process." Otzen's apparatus is then used for "correction of the wire diameter fluctuations" caused by reduced tensions in the wire formed during a "hardening process at 860C." (See Col. 3, Lines 14-21). Therefore, Otzen does not teach or suggest a wire having a plurality of strands as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, Otzen does not describe all the elements of amended claim 1 as is required by MPEP §2131 to make a proper rejection under §102.

Applicants therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1. Claims 2-11, 17, 22-23, 28 and 33-34 depend from claim 1 and add further limitations thereto. Thus, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims as well. Independent claim 51 includes similar subject matter. Claims 52-53, 59, 64-65, 70 and 75-76 depend from independent claim 51. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejections of these claims, as well.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.


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We believe we have appropriately provided for fees due. However, if there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this submission, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. SMCY-P01-101 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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